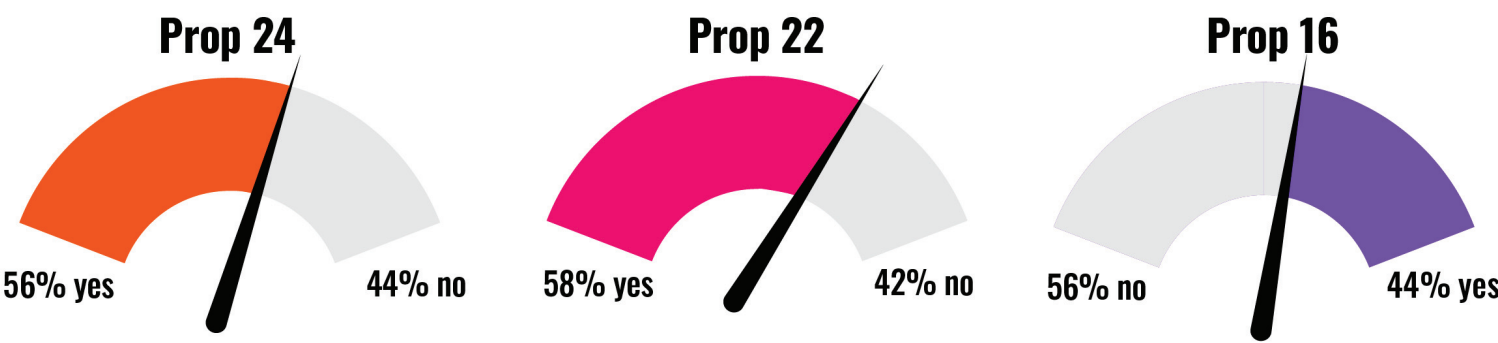


Votes for California propositions most likely to affect college students

as of 1:30 a.m. PST Wed.



JESUS TELLITUD | SPARTAN DAILY

Multiple Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters volunteers and workers count provisional ballots Tuesday night at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office.

Santa Clara County sees highest voter turnout since 2008

By Jesus Tellitud & Ruth Noemi Aguilar
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & STAFF WRITER

“[Voting] was a bit stressful because I didn’t know what to do,” San Jose resident Julio Cesar said. “These [volunteers] helped me out every step of the way. But honestly, I was nervous about it.”

Cesar is 20 years old and a first-time voter. His father accompanied him to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library voting

center Tuesday night.

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office expects to surpass the previous highest voter turnout, which was in 2008 with 86% participation, according to a Tuesday ABC7 News article. More than 700,000 ballots have been cast in Santa Clara County by 5:25 p.m. PST, ABC7 News reported in another article Tuesday.

According to its website, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters is in

charge of administering elections in the county.

Voters were able to go to different polling locations to either drop off their mail-in ballots or to vote in person.

While traditional ballots were filled out at voting centers, electronic touch-screen voting machines were also available.

The touch-screen machines also had an attachable remote for anyone in need of accommodation because of a disability, according to Katherine Gonzalez, a vote

center worker at the SJSU Hammer Theatre Center voting location.

Gonzalez said the machines were not heavily used by voters in the Hammer Theatre voting center.

“We were lucky enough to use it twice during this voting season . . . I think I heard [voters] used it twice all last March,” she said.

BALLOTS | Page 2

Election night results may be incomplete

By Jovanna Olivares
STAFF WRITER

With mail-in ballots being one of the biggest factors in who will be the next U.S. president, some San Jose State political science professors said it’s normal to not know the results on election night.

Moreover, SJSU political science professor Matthew Record said over Zoom that it’s especially hard to determine a winner during close elections.

“Really since the 2000s, only 2008 and 2012 have been essentially certainties on election night, and therefore we had the results on election night,” Record said.

He also said there have always been votes counted after Election Day. However, Record said some political figures such as U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh have implied that votes counted after Election Day are illegitimate.

According to an Oct. 20 USA Today article, Trump has repeatedly stated that mail-in ballot fraud poses a threat to the 2020 election. There is no evidence to prove this claim.

“

California, for example, as long as the [mail-in ballot] is postmarked by Election Day, [it] can show up at the voter registrar’s office seventeen days after the election.

Garrick Percival
SJSU political science professor

Record said there is tension surrounding this possible transition of power. “Trump has a small but extremely fervent fan base, and that engenders a backlash of a comparatively larger and almost equally fervent group of people that despise him,” Record said. “There’s really no telling how people are going to react to results, and violence is not out of the realm of possibility.”

He added that battleground states also referred to as swing states, are the most competitive and will ultimately determine



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INFOGRAPHIC BY CHELSEA NGUYEN FLEIGE, VECTORS FROM FREEPIK.COM

this election’s outcome.

“This year all eyes are on Pennsylvania and Wisconsin,” Record said.

According to a Tuesday New York Post article, only 76,000 of the 350,000 mail-in ballots have been counted in Philadelphia so far. Pennsylvania will resume counting on Wednesday morning.

“[Pennsylvania and Wisconsin] have laws that say they cannot even start counting absentee votes until today, so they started counting this morning,” Record said.

SJSU political science professor Garrick Percival explained that the voting certification process could vary from state to state and county to county.

“California, for example, as long as the [mail-in ballot] is postmarked by Election Day, [it] can show up at the voter registrar’s

office seventeen days after the election,” he said.

This indicates that election results will not become available until all ballots are counted.

“So it can be three to four weeks before the ballots are fully, legitimately counted,” Percival said.

During a news conference late Tuesday night, President Donald Trump claimed victory and said he wants all vote counting to stop, saying he will go to the Supreme Court over certain ballots, according to a Wednesday 9News article.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter | @joo_zuniga

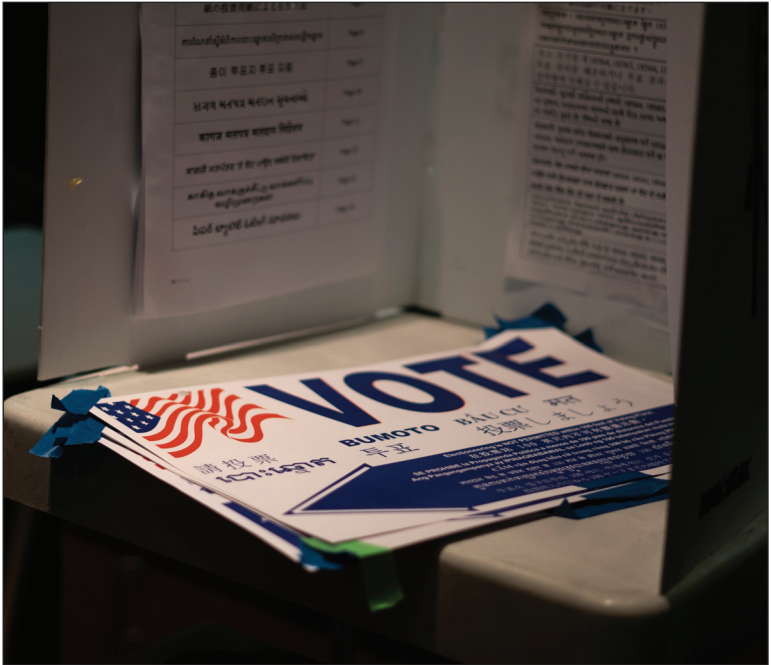


PHOTOS BY JESUS TELLITUD

Top left: Gary, a Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters volunteer, seals a ballot drop off box in front of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Top right: Jonathan Daniel Schultz was the final person to cast his ballot at SJSU Hammer Theatre Center.

Bottom: Boxes of uncounted ballots fill the registrar's office as volunteers deliver more throughout Election Day.



Above: Volunteers transport the ballots to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office after polls close at 8 p.m.

Left: In-person ballots brought in orange bags are checked in to be counted at the registrar's office.

BALLOTS

Continued from page 1

Transporting the ballots

Volunteers transported the ballots to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office to be checked and counted after the vote centers and drop boxes closed at 8 p.m., said Jamie Jones, administrative assistant for the Santa Clara Registrar of Voters.

The Registrar of Voters employees sort and count the ballots and place them into different categories such as mail-in ballots, provisional ballots and in-person ballots based.

Mail-in ballots were brought in blue bags from the 97 ballot drop boxes in Santa Clara County, according to the Registrar of Voters media packet.

Jones said the in-person ballots were brought in orange

bags with their cartridges, which come from a machine that counts the ballots and the results.

“I mean, it’s a huge operation and they need people to help out,” said Grace Schmidt, a Registrar of Voters volunteer and San Jose resident.

Working with provisional ballots

Jones said provisional ballots, which are given to voters who did not register before the Oct. 19 deadline, were brought in pink bags and were separated from the other in-person ballots. He said this is because of the extra verification needed to confirm information from voters.

Provisional ballots are checked separately from the other ballots because they have to be verified through other machines by specialized workers who require training.

Registrar of Voters workers verify voter information in case

“[Voting] was a bit stressful because I didn’t know what to do. These [volunteers] helped me out every step of the way. But honestly, I was nervous about it.

Julio Cesar
San Jose resident and first-time voter

the voter needs to be notified of any mistakes on the ballot that needs to be resolved, such as missing or incorrect signatures, Jones said.

He added that signatures are one of the main reasons that ballots do not get verified.

Jones said the ballots couldn’t be opened and counted without verification that a signature is correct. If a signature is not verified, the registrar’s office reaches out to the voter three times to update it.

this election because of new equipment used to scan and find errors in the ballots.

She said the adjudication process, which determines which candidate a voter cast their ballot for, sped up because workers used technology for the process instead of doing it by hand.

The office reaches out to the voters with unverified ballots on three different occasions to try to get their ballot verified, which is why the county waits until two days before the 17-20 day deadline to submit the ballots to the state, Mendez said.

“We wait because we curate the ballots and curate the rejected ballots,” she said.

In California, the Registrar of Voters Office has around 17-20 days after the election to submit all verified ballots to get official results of the elections. Any unverified ballot is left unopened and not counted, Jones said.

Evelyn Mendez, public information officer for the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, said the office had about 1,500 volunteers working Tuesday. She said the process to count ballots went quicker

Experimental singer stands out

By Felix Oliveros
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State communications senior and vocal artist Ashley Mehta’s musical unpredictability could make her the next household name from the Bay Area.

The Fremont native’s experimental mentality allows her to perform multiple genres of music. Whether it’s rhythm and blues, hip-hop, pop or EDM, Mehta embraces any new musical challenge.

“The one thing that has stayed consistent throughout my music is the pop element,” Mehta said. “Coming from the Bay Area helps so much with [experimenting] because most of the music here is rap and R&B.”

She said she has always been heavily influenced by pop music, whether it was on her own time or around the house – where she said the radio was always playing in the background.

Growing up, Mehta said she listened to Michael Jackson and pop artist Tori Kelly because she admired their multifaceted artistry – Jackson’s dancing and Kelly’s ability to play guitar.

Aside from many popular artists, Mehta is also influenced by her family with whom she feels a strong connection.

Mehta said she isn’t the only musically gifted one in the family. Her brother is talented, her mother can sing well and her family also told her that her late father, who died when she was three years old, was a talented singer.

“I’m very spiritual in terms of energy and I know that [my dad] is watching me,” she said. “I hope to make him proud. Everything I experience and go through, I know he’s with me in that journey.”

Additionally, Mehta said her family is very supportive of her creative pursuits. Her mother often asks when she is releasing her next song and her brother often walks into her room while she’s working on music to express his excitement.

Maleni Morales, Mehta’s longtime friend and a student at California State University, Monterey Bay, has seen Mehta’s growth as an artist since they met as freshmen in high school.

“I have a lot of faith in her and where she’s going,” she said. “It’s just a matter of time before she really breaks out because she’s been grinding for a long time and I feel like she’s getting better and better.”

Morales said Mehta’s unique and distinct voice sets her apart from other artists and her original style doesn’t seem like a spinoff of other artists.

After performing many cover songs and writing her own material, Mehta stepped inside a professional recording studio for the first time in high school.

She said she then put her fear aside and vowed to pursue a music career while attending SJSU.

“It’s just a matter of time before she really breaks out because she’s been grinding for a long time and I feel like she’s getting better and better.”

Maleni Morales
Mehta’s friend

“It almost felt like it was meant to happen. I came to [SJSU] undeclared,” Mehta said. “I didn’t know at all what I wanted to do. The reason why [I’m a communications major] is so I can gain the skills to talk to more people and network.”

Mehta met her eventual friend and collaborator at SJSU, Rommel Serrano, a DJ and producer known by the stage name Rommii. She messaged Serrano on Instagram in hopes of working together after listening to his music.

“She works just as hard, if not harder than me,” Serrano said. “It’s cool because she taught me so much about song writing and pockets within vocals and I taught her about production and sound design.”

The duo found synergy in their work and released two songs together called “All of My Love” and “Where Do We Go.” However, Serrano said they have around 40 unreleased songs.

The duo have a joint EP scheduled for release sometime in 2021. Both artists said they don’t want to give away



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY MEHTA

Ashley Mehta performs onstage at a Forager Tasting Room and Eatery event in 2019.

too many details in order to sustain an element of surprise.

“No one really knows fully that I’m going to dive into this whole R&B, hip-hop, electronic pop realm,” Mehta said. “We don’t know a genre [for our EP]. We couldn’t put it in a genre.”

She hopes to move to Los Angeles after she graduates in Spring 2021 to build her career.

Even as her sights are set on the City of Angels, Mehta said the Bay Area

will always be a part of her identity and hold the most significance in her heart.

“I get chills just getting asked [about blowing up in the Bay Area]. It would mean the world to me especially because the Bay Area is family,” Mehta said. “The family I’ve created here with friends and everybody here who supports my music, I think it would just be so surreal.”

Follow Felix on Twitter
@f3lixthe3rd

Artist swaps wanderlust for local roots

By Laura Fields
STAFF WRITER

San Jose visual artist Nathaniel Verbeck set aside his nomadic ways during the coronavirus pandemic and ended his worldwide wandering to settle as a professional artist in the Bay Area.

As a child, Verbeck showed interest in art by sketching and dabbling in photography.

“I remember taking an art history class in 7th grade and then left to go on this trip and see all these things in person,” he said. “Ever since then, I’ve been super into what makes something beautiful or what draws someone to something.”

Verbeck’s trip took him from an American classroom to Eastern Europe and the Middle East, where he spent four months. The experience taught him to appreciate different cultures and ways of life.

While other children spent their middle school years in history class, Verbeck said he spent time traveling and walking the halls of the world’s finest art museums.

“It was a fantastic experience and I’ve definitely kept a lot of the lessons I’ve learned from that desire for adventure,” he said.

Verbeck said he did not fully commit himself to seriously pursuing art until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, even though he lived a life surrounded by art and beauty.

He was born in Detroit but grew up in the Bay Area and attended De Anza College.

During the pandemic, Verbeck realized he was uninterested in his classes. So, he began taking courses at RayKo Photo Center in



LAURA FIELDS | SPARTAN DAILY

Nathaniel Verbeck paints an acrylic piece at a South First Fridays event in downtown.

“If I know anything about my brother, it is that if he wants something, he will work hard and be excruciatingly stubborn until he makes it happen.”

Hunter Verbeck
Nathaniel Verbeck’s brother

San Francisco until it closed due to local shelter-in-place orders.

Verbeck said he interviewed for a serving job at a seafood restaurant around the same time, but management said they were no longer hiring because of the shutdown. He then turned to art for comfort after having no other option but to isolate at home.

Verbeck ruminates how being an artist would be easier if he made art that people want him to produce, rather than creating art at his own desire.

“In art, it’s important to be out there,”

he said. “It’s important to challenge things and not be comfortable with everything we do and not just do something because it’s easy.”

Verbeck’s first venture into the professional art scene was a series of charcoal drawings featuring hands, which he displayed for sale during a Downtown San Jose South First Fridays event – an outdoor art market held on the first Friday of every month.

As he explores his career, close friends

and family have recognized the creative spirit that guided him his whole life.

“From his aura, I detect massive potential,” said Ryan Toulouse, a close friend of Verbeck and music education senior at Sonoma State University. “Nathaniel can, at times be humble, but has grown to become more confident in his ability.”

Verbeck said much of his confidence stems from his hiking trip on the Appalachian trail from 2016-17, which he describes as a turning point in his life.

He said he felt more mature and humbled by the experience, especially after fracturing his foot more than halfway through and taking a break to work at a ski hill in Reno.

Verbeck’s identical twin brother, Hunter Verbeck, who lives on the East coast, said his brother’s drive and passion in his latest art endeavors would be a catalyst for his success.

“I knew he was very different from me since high school,” Hunter Verbeck said. “He would make drawings here or there that would make me take a step back and ask how he did it.”

Hunter Verbeck admits art is a difficult field to pursue but believes those who stick with it and have a unique perspective tend to succeed.

“If I know anything about my brother, it is that if he wants something, he will work hard and be excruciatingly stubborn until he makes it happen,” Hunter Verbeck said.

Nathaniel Verbeck sees a future for himself as a full-time artist even though he’s spent much of his life jumping between jobs and projects.

“I might not be doing the same thing day-to-day, but if I can tie it all back to art, that seems like a great path that I can keep going down,” Nathaniel Verbeck said.

Follow Laura on Twitter
@swimgirlaura

Follow Ashley on
Instagram
@ashleymehtaofficial

Follow Nathaniel on
Instagram
@nathanielverbeckart

OPINION

Bubble protocols keep players safe

By Jovanna Olivares
STAFF WRITER

The Mountain West Conference should continue following the example of some professional sporting leagues by maintaining “bubble” protocols because even though it is costly and requires extreme precautions to be taken, it’s necessary during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department approved the San Jose State football team to play at CEFCU Stadium after the county moved to the orange tier on Oct. 14.

The word “bubble,” which refers to sports teams being isolated from the general public throughout the season, and includes accommodations, amenities and the location at which the games are held, was recently added to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

It is extremely dangerous for the Spartans to travel around the country during the pandemic to play a contact sport.

Traveling significantly increases the chances of spreading COVID-19, especially when traveling places by bus or train because of the number of individuals in a small space. Some individuals may be asymptomatic and spread the virus to others unknowingly.

According to a Sept. 22 Healthline article, a health information site, 1 in 5 people with



ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

COVID-19 are asymptomatic but can still spread the virus.

Although there are only eight games in the season, COVID-19 cases are likely to spike if strict standards are not upheld.

Colorado State had to postpone its game against New Mexico on Oct. 20 because players and a coach on the New Mexico team contracted the coronavirus according to an Oct. 24 Denver Post article. Additionally, the coronavirus case count in San Bernalillo County in New Mexico was too high for Colorado State to risk playing there.

The NBA, WNBA and NHL all used the bubble method and showed significantly better results than leagues that did not use this method, such as MLB and the NFL.

Compromising players’ health by not taking all precautions necessary can predictably have similar effects of the NFL outbreaks. The Mountain West Conference must prevent a spike in COVID-19 cases from happening. SJSU and the Mountain West Conference should not prioritize profiting from college football over the

safety of everyone involved.

According to a Sept. 5 ESPN article, the NFL has been conducting COVID-19 tests since Aug. 5 to players and staff every day of the regular season except on game day. But testing players and coaches hasn’t made much of a difference because multiple teams are not following COVID-19 protocols.

NFL teams are not following basic guidelines such as wearing a mask, and have proven that irresponsible actions can result in a serious outbreak.

The NFL fined the Tennessee Titans

\$350,000 for not following COVID-19 safety protocols. They had 24 players test positive for the virus, according to an Oct. 24 Associated Press article.

Athletes are also allowed to play games without masks according to an Oct. 13 Santa Clara County Public Health’s Mandatory Directive for Collegiate and Professional Athletics.

The Mountain West Conference should not follow what the NFL is doing and instead stick to strict bubbling standards.

Playing without masks puts the athletes on the field at a significant risk of

contracting the virus and spreading it to others. The possibility of a large outbreak poses a significant threat to a successful season and could have the county itself backtracking to the red or purple tier, which indicates substantial and widespread COVID-19 risk respectively.

While it’s exciting that the Spartans are 2-0 in the season, it is important that strong health standards are upheld in order to keep the coaches, players and community members safe.

Follow Jovanna on Twitter | @joo_zuniga



ABOUT

The Spartan Daily serves as San Jose State’s top news source and was named the best student newspaper in the state. New issues are published Tuesday through Thursday during the academic year with the website updated daily.

The Spartan Daily is written and published by San Jose State students as an expression of their First Amendment rights.

Reader feedback may be submitted as letters to the editor or online comments.

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL –

MAIN TELEPHONE:
(408) 924-3281

EMAIL:
spartandaily@gmail.com

ADVERTISING –

TELEPHONE:
408-924-3240

EMAIL:
spartandailyadvertising@gmail.com

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I look forward to working with you!

Berkeley graduate
Chris Jackson

Icons created by Eucalyp and Adrien Coquet from Noun Project.



Correction

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, “Vote center workers prioritize safety,” in which Chipo Mulenga should have been referred to as her.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, “Celebrating Día de los Muertos,” in which Yolanda Luna was misidentified.

The Spartan Daily regrets these errors.